First Edition

Safety & Instruction Manual

For Your

Lightning Magazine Rifle

U.S. Fire Arms Mfg. Co.

Hartford, CT

Congratulations!

You are now the proud owner of the first true reproduction of the original Colt Lightning Rifle.

Produced from 1884 to 1904, the Medium Frame Lightning Magazine Rifle was a dramatic innovation in breach loading firearms. A remarkably short action stroke, compact size, made the Lightning Magazine Rifle a success on the frontier.

In the 21st century USFA integrates advances in metallurgy, the precision of CNC machining and the craftsmanship of hand assembly to produce the Lightning today.

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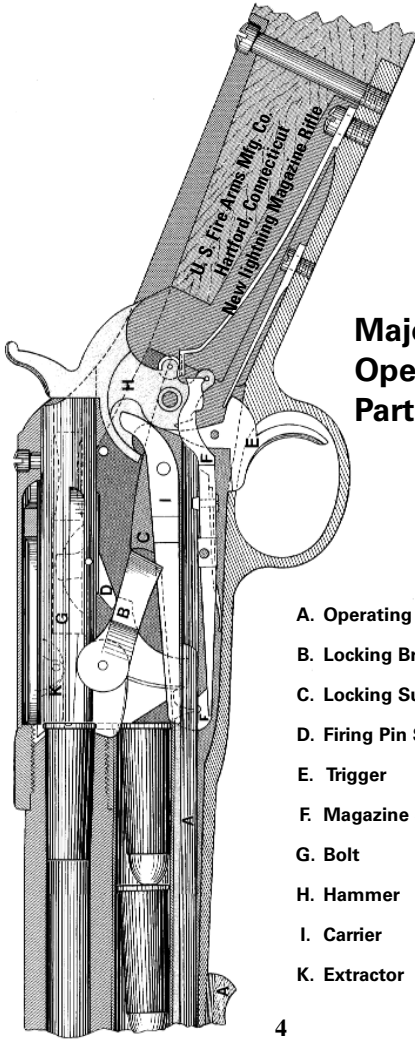


Major Operating Parts

A. Operating Handle & Slide

B. Locking Brace

C. Locking Surface on Tang

D. Firing Pin Safety

E. Trigger

F. Magazine Stop & Safety Sear

G. Bolt

H. Hammer

I. Carrier

K. Extractor

Directions for Use:

When the hammer is at full or half-cock, the action is released by lowering the hammer. Bring the piece to the shoulder in the usual way: grasp the handle or slide **A**, with the left hand and draw it to the rear. The first part of this rear movement raises the locking-brace **B** from the abutment **C**, acts upon the firing pin lever **D**, withdraws the firing-pin, and releases the magazine gate **F**, causing it to hold back the cartridge in the magazine, and as bolt **G** moves to the rear, ejects the cartridge shell, cocks the hammer **H**, and raises the carrier **I**, so that when the movement is finished, the cartridge is in proper position to enter the chamber.

Then push the slide A forward. The movement carries the bolt **G** forward, drives the cartridge into the chamber, throws down the carrier I into position to receive, and withdraw the magazine gate **F** to release another cartridge, throws the brace **B** against the abutment **C**, and the rifle is ready for firing.

After the piece has been fired, or when the breech is closed, the handle and slide may be locked by half-cocking the hammer. This action causes a projection on the gate lever, (shown behind the letter **F** in the cutaway) to engage a corresponding recess in the underside of the slide, thus locking it, and preventing it and the breech-bolt from moving. As may be seen from the drawing, the handle and

slide can only be released by bringing the hammer to the down position. In the full and half-cock positions of the hammer, the slide, handle, and breech-bolt are positively locked.

A feature peculiar to this rifle is, the breech-bolt is brought clear forward and the extractor is hooked over the cartridge in the barrel before the magazine gate will allow another cartridge to be fed to the carrier, and the magazine gate is positively locked, only allowing one cartridge at a time to pass from the magazine, thus preventing blocking the breech action, and the escape of cartridges under the carrier.

The firing pin is held back positively until the cartridge has entered the chamber, when the bolt is locked so that premature explosion is impossible.

Safety Message & Production Note

Special notice: Slam-fire Capabilities

The hammer is automatically locked and unlocked by the hook near the end of the magazine lever **F**. By this arrangement the rifle may be loaded and discharged by the reciprocating motion of the slide, keeping the trigger constantly pressed back during the working of the slide. The USFA Lightning follows the same manufacturing details as the Original Colt Lightning once made “Under the Dome” here in Hartford. Slam-Firing {Squeezing the trigger while

functioning the slide to fire the gun} was thought of as a positive feature and was advertised by Colt 100 years ago. ***It is is not recommended, or warranted for safety reasons.*** This is a capability of your Lightning Rifle as designed by the Colt Company in 1884. However, any tampering with the spring weights or sear surfaces may lead to a dangerous condition and may render the rifle inoperable. No warranty is implied or expressed when operated in this manner. It is unsafe gun handling and not responsible behavior. Practice proper safety - always wear eye and ear protection.

Material for Shooting

Factory, New, Commercially Manufactured Ammunition in New Condition.

The ammunition to be used in these rifles is strictly to be Factory new ammunition and not re-loaded or old outdated ammunition.

The caliber of your Lightning Rifle is listed on the top of the barrel near the frame. The caliber of the carbine is listed on the side of the barrel. This designation is the only type of ammunition to be used in your rifle.

Please follow ammunition manufacturers guidelines for the safe storage, disposal, and care or your ammunition. Only high quality new ammunition should be used in this fire arm. Use of wrong, old, or re-loaded ammunition can bring your

firearm **OUT OF PROOF**.

Handling Ammunition

Your firearm was designed for a specific type of ammunition (cartridge), referred to as caliber. The caliber of your firearm

Explanation of barrel markings

Rollmark	Ammunition to be used
.44 Cal	.44 WCF
.38 Cal	.38 WCF
.32 Cal	.32 WCF

is clearly marked on the barrel. DO NOT use any other ammunition than that specified on the barrel of your firearm.

ALWAYS use new, commercially manufactured ammunition.

NEVER mix ammunition of different calibers. Always handle ammunition with care.

DO NOT drop cartridges or subject them to shock, impact or heat. The cartridge may explode and cause injury or death.

In Case of Misfire

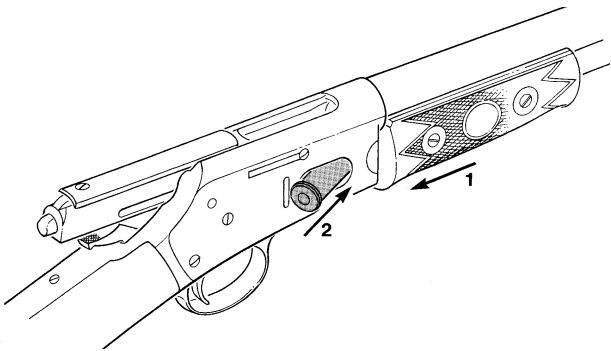
1. *Make certain that the barrel of your rifle is pointed in a safe direction and wait 30 seconds before opening the breech.*

2. *Slide the forearm back and eject the cartridge.*

4. *Examine the ejected cartridge for damage and dispose of properly if the primer shows signs that it was struck by the*

firing pin. If the firing pin did not strike the primer the gun has malfunctioned and may need service. (See page 28 for instructions on returning a firearm to USFA for service.

Safe Loading Procedure



If you are sure that your have the specific type of ammunition for your firearm, you may begin the safe loading procedure.

- *Point the barrel downward. **ALWAYS** keep your fingers away from the trigger guard and trigger when loading a firearm.*
- *The tubular magazine is loaded through the port on the right side of the receiver.*
- *When loading your Lightning Rifle you must hear a positive "click" each time a round is loaded in the magazine tube. This insures a positive receiving of the cartridge into the magazine tube.*

- *With the action open and the chamber clear, press the loading gate inward with the first cartridge until all but the rim is in the loading port.*
- *Positive magazine spring tension is common and necessary in this class of rifle of the period. for proper feeding into the frame and is also meant to hold the cartridge securely even during firing. If left loose it could accidentally detonate the neighboring cartridges in the magazine tube. Do not modify the magazine spring tension to achieve an ease of loading-this can lead to serious damage.*
- *Insert the next cartridge in the same way pushing the cartridge ahead of it forward. The cartridges move into the tubular magazine. Push the last cartridge past the end of the loading gate until the gate snaps shut. Be sure to listen for the positive click as the cartridge passes by the magazine stop. Close the slide, and lower the hammer.*
- *When you close the slide after loading the gun will NOT be loaded. In order to shoot you must slowly lower the hammer and then rack or pump the action. You are now ready to fire the first round.*
- *Use only flat nose bullets in the tubular magazine.*

Your Weapon is Now Loaded

Use Common Sense and Basic Fire-Arms Safety.

Shooting Your Rifle

Before shooting your Lightning Rifle, be sure the target area is clear of all obstacles and that no one is in your line of fire.

ALWAYS wear safety glasses. An exploding cartridge will spray particles that may cause damage to your eyes or blindness.

ALWAYS wear specially designed ear protection. The noise from your firearm may lead to temporary or even permanent hearing loss.

ALWAYS keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction until you are ready to shoot. Then, follow this four-step procedure.

1. *Aim, by aligning the target with the front and rear sights.*
2. *Squeeze the trigger gently and evenly to fire.*
4. *Cock and repeat the steps until all rounds are discharged.*

When Handling Your Firearm

- *Read and understand the contents of this manual.*
- *Handle all firearms as if they were loaded.*
- *Check the firearm for live ammunition when picking it up, passing it to or receiving it from another person, and*

before storing it.

- *Fully understand the operation of your firearm before loading and firing it.*

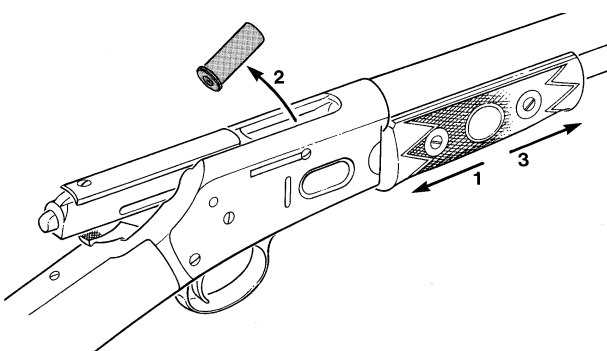
Before Firing Your Firearm:

- *Always have your firearm pointed in a safe direction. If you must carry a loaded firearm, always carry it with the barrel pointing towards the ground.* ***DO NOT*** *carry a firearm with the hammer cocked.*

When Shooting a Firearm:

- *When shooting any firearm, wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from fragments and powder. Wear ear protection against the loud noise of firing.*
- ***DO NOT*** *put your finger inside the trigger guard until you are ready to fire.*
- *When shooting any firearm, be sure the area has a safe, impenetrable backstop. On a target range, always follow the range officer's commands to load, fire, cease-fire and unload.*
- *Use ammunition specifically recommended for your firearm. The appropriate ammunition is specified by the caliber of your firearm and is permanently engraved on the barrel of your firearm.*
- *Use only commercially manufactured ammunition.*
- ***NEVER*** *mix ammunition of different calibers.*

- *If your firearm fails to fire, **DO NOT** try to fire it and **DO NOT** try to force the hammer down. Keep your firearm pointed at the target and wait 30 seconds. If the firearm does not fire within 30 seconds, point the barrel in a safe direction and carefully unload the firearm with your fingers outside the trigger guard.*
- *When transporting your firearm, be sure that it is unloaded. Transport your unloaded firearm and ammunition in separate, secure, locked containers. As an added safety measure, install a gunlock in the trigger guard of your firearm when it is being transported.*
- ***DO NOT** store your firearm in cloth, leather or paper wrapping. These will attract and hold moisture which will cause corrosion and may result in malfunction. As an added safety measure, store your firearm with a gun lock in the trigger guard. Store your firearm and ammunition securely out of the reach of children.*



Safe Unloading Procedure

IMPORTANT: Before unloading be sure that the muzzle of your rifle is pointed in a safe direction.

Slide the forearm grip slowly to eject the first cartridge. Close the action and very carefully and slowly lower the hammer onto the bolt while gently pulling the trigger. Repeat these steps until the rifle is completely unloaded. When no more cartridges eject from the rifle check the chamber, feed ramp and magazine for cartridges.

Cleaning and Storage

Although smokeless powder is not highly corrosive, it is important to clean your firearm immediately after use and periodically when it is stored for a long period of time.

ALWAYS make sure your firearm is unloaded before attempting to clean it. All metal parts of your firearm should be kept well lubricated with good quality gun oil. A soft, absorbent cloth should be used to remove excess oil and to maintain the finish of the metal.

When not in use, **ALWAYS** store firearms and ammunition separately in a locked, secure environment securely out of the reach of children. As an added safety measure, install a gunlock in the trigger guard of your firearm before storing it.

DO NOT store your firearm in an airtight container.

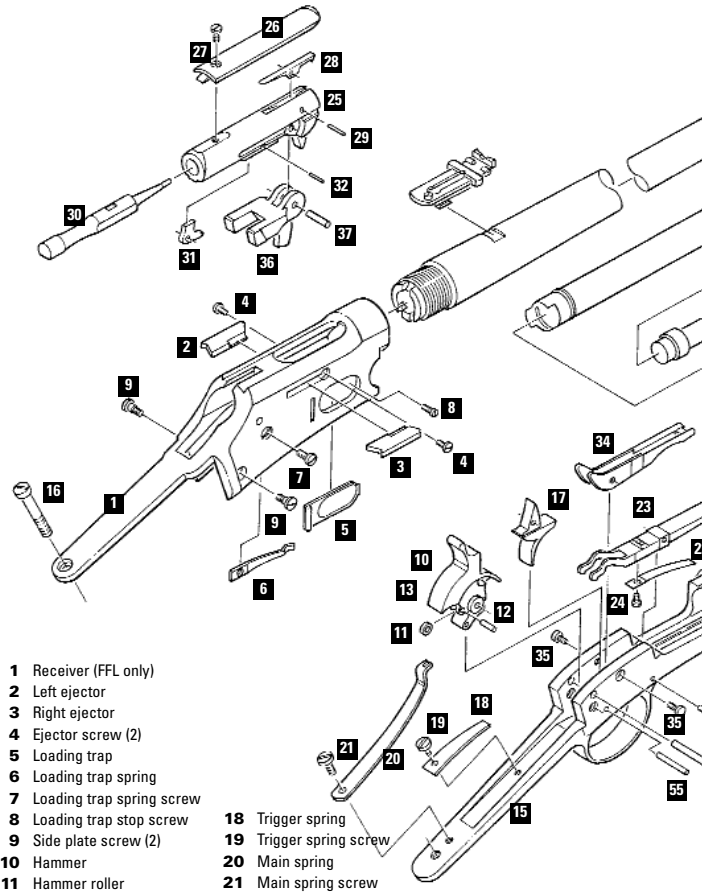
DO NOT seal the barrel to block out dust. This will cause moisture to accumulate in the barrel and chambers that will lead to corrosion of the metal surfaces.

ALWAYS store ammunition in a separate, locked container.

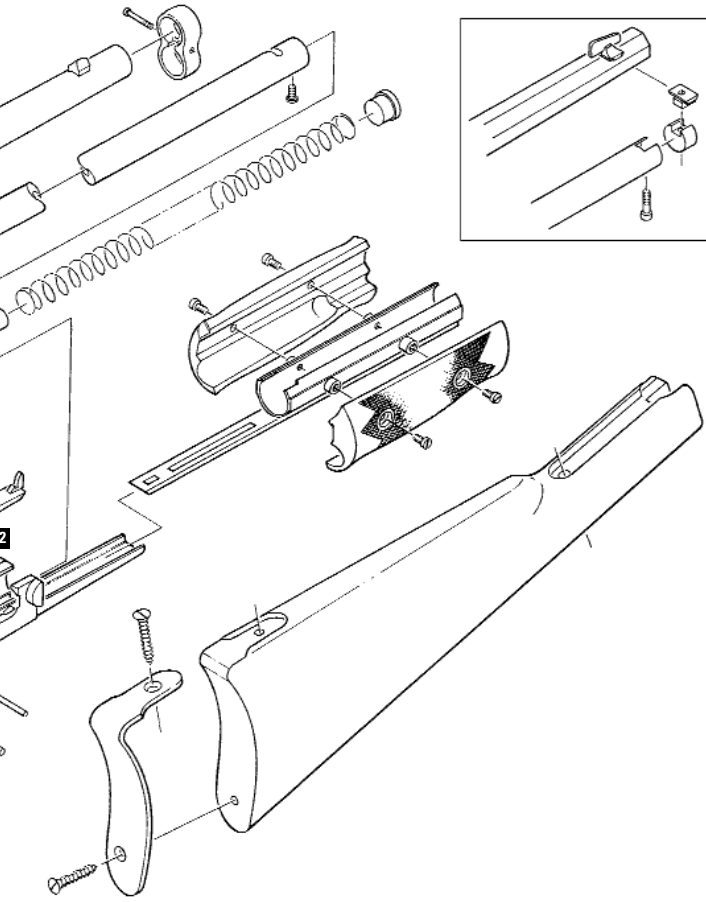
Disassembly and Reassembly

To take apart the rifle -- First check that the rifle is not loaded. Take out the tang screw. Draw off the butt stock. Take out the magazine screw at the front end and remove the magazine. Take out the two side screws, cock the piece and draw the slide about halfway to the rear and withdraw the trigger plate. Slide the bolt clear back, insert a punch in the small hole on the left hand side, and push out the locking brace pin, and slide out the bolt. The other parts can be removed without special directions.

To reassemble the rifle -- Replace the parts in the reverse order from that given for taking the rifle apart.



1 Receiver (FFL only)
2 Left ejector
3 Right ejector
4 Ejector screw (2)
5 Loading trap
6 Loading trap spring
7 Loading trap spring screw
8 Loading trap stop screw
9 Side plate screw (2)
10 Hammer
11 Hammer roller
12 Hammer roller pin
13 Hammer safety pin
14 Hammer pin
15 Tang
16 Tang screw
17 Trigger
18 Trigger spring
19 Trigger spring screw
20 Main spring
21 Main spring screw
22 Magazine stop spring
23 Magazine stop
24 Magazine stop spring screw
25 Bolt
26 Top cover
27 Top cover screw
28 Extractor
29 Extractor pin
30 Firing pin
31 Firing pin lever
32 Firing pin lever pin



37 Locking brace pin
38 Barrel (round)
39 Barrel (half round)
40 Barrel (octagon)

55 Trigger and stop pin

Witnesses:
Jos. Chumway
Lew. C. Earle

Fig. 4.

Fig. 6

Fig. 5

Fig. 7

Carl J. Ekbeck
By atty
Dewey & Co.

Fig 1

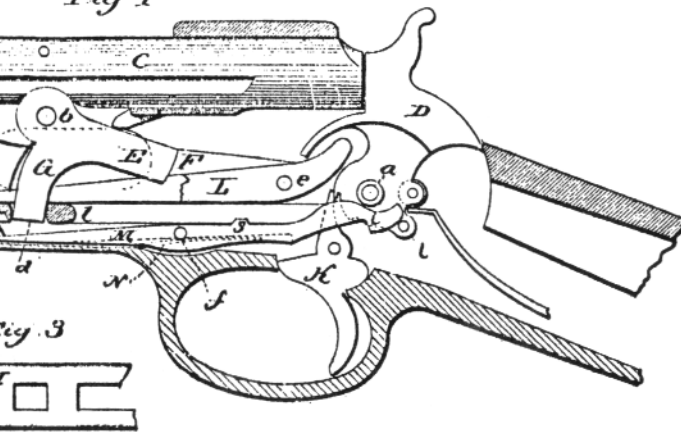
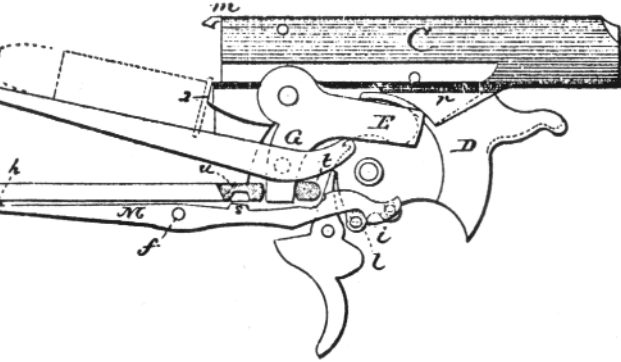


Fig. 3

Fig. 2



Be A Safe Shooter! Keep Out of Reach of Children!
Remember, children can and will find your firearms. Store them unloaded, with a gunlock in the trigger guard, in a locked gun safe. Federal Firearms Regulations define safe storage as a safe, gun safe, gun case, lock box, or other device designed to be used to store a firearm and that can be unlocked only by means of a key, a combination, or other similar means.

As a firearms owner and user, you must take responsibility for the safe handling and safe storage of your firearms.

Safety Instructions.

Notice of Personal Responsibility.

This Manual of Instruction and Safety gives advice on the safe handling of this gun from U.S.Fire Arms. However, your safety and that of your family and others depends on your mature compliance with these instructions and advice. You must adopt and develop these practices and only you can employ them in the safe handling of this or any firearm. These firearms, although simple in design, are complex and require your full attention to detail. Follow the recommended loading instructions contained in this Manual.

Every year hundreds of children are shot while playing with a fire arm. Please do not mishandle this firearm and create another needless accident. Secure your firearm!

Notice of Liability. *(Please Note)*

U. S.Fire Arms Mfg. Co. shall not be responsible, either in whole or part, for injury, death, or damage to property resulting from intentional or accidental discharge of this firearm, or from its function when used for purposes or subjected to treatment for which it was not designed.

U.S.Fire Arms Mfg. Co. will not honor claims involving our firearms which result from careless or improper handling, unauthorized adjustment, re-manufacture, corrosion, neglect, or the use of wrong ammunition, bullets, or any combination of the above. We will not honor claims involving these firearms for any reason or cause when such claims are made by a second or subsequent owner.

This instruction manual should always accompany this rifle and should be transferred with it upon change of ownership. If you require a replacement instruction manual, write to:

United States Fire Arms Manufacturing Co., Inc.
445-453 Ledyard Street
Hartford, CT U.S.A. 06114
1-877-227-6901

The replacement instruction manual will be shipped for free.

We must remind you that this Authentic Lightning Rifle is a firearm and can kill you, a family member, and or cause property damage if it is misused. This is a real gun and should be treated safely as any modern firearm of today.

Notice of Factory Proof.

The small inspectors marks and serial numbers found on almost any gun of today, including these Lightning Rifles, are used to provide information about your gun or gun part. It tells U. S. Fire Arms what exacting standard of manufacture that part was subjected. Please do not remove or alter any serial number or Mark of Proof. Please do not remove, alter, or re-manufacture any part, spring, or metal bearing surface in any way. A 'tuned' gun, or, addition of high performance parts not standard to our firearm will bring it **OUT OF PROOF** and out of its normal operating range.

Removal or defacement of marks is considered bringing the firearm *Out of Proof. A firearm found to be **OUT OF PROOF**, whether done by the owner, or on behalf of the owner, will be brought either back into proof by the factory or will be destroyed and a replacement made available at reasonable cost to the owner of the de-commissioned firearm.

Special Warnings and Cautions

If any gun is carelessly or improperly handled, unintentional discharge could result, and could cause injury, death, or damage to persons and or property.

Extra Care and Strict Adherence to these instructions by the gun user, and any person using the gun, is mandatory for minimizing the risk of accidents, death, or property damage to you or your family.

When you pull the trigger you must expect the gun to fire. Be A Safe Shooter! Never load or point any firearm until you are ready to fire and accept the consequences of your actions in firing the gun.

Cautions You Should Follow

ALWAYS handle your rifle as if it were loaded so that you never fire it accidentally when you think it is unloaded.

NEVER point your rifle at anything you do not intend to shoot so that if it fires, accidental injury, death, or damage to property will be prevented.

NEVER take anyone's word that a gun is unloaded. Check for yourself keeping your fingers off the trigger and the gun pointed in a safe direction, to see that the chamber is empty, so that you never fire the gun accidentally when you think it is unloaded.

ALWAYS be sure barrel and action are clear of obstructions. Clean a fouled rifle immediately so that it will function correctly and safely.

NEVER squeeze the trigger or put your finger in the trigger guard until you are aiming at a target and ready to shoot. This will prevent you firing the rifle when it is pointing in an unsafe direction.

FAILURE to fire. Always hold rifle, keeping it pointed towards the target and wait 30 seconds when rifle fails to fire. If a hang-fire (slow ignition) has occurred, rifle should fire within 30 seconds. if rifle does not fire, remove cartridge.

DO NOT try to re-fire the defective cartridge.

NEVER fire your rifle near an animal unless it is trained to accept the noise; an animal's startled reaction could injure it or cause an accident.

NEVER walk, climb or follow a companion with your rifle cocked ready to fire (in battery).

ALWAYS wear shooting glasses when loading.

ALWAYS be absolutely sure of your target and the area behind it before you squeeze the trigger. A bullet could travel through or past your target up to a mile ... if in doubt, don't shoot!

NEVER shoot at a hard surface, such as rock, tree, or, liquid surface, such as water. A bullet may ricochet and travel in any direction to strike you, or an object you cannot see, causing injury, death, or damage to property.

ALWAYS be sure your backstop is adequate to stop and contain bullet before beginning target practice so that you do not hit anything outside the range shooting area.

ALWAYS put someone in charge to maintain safety control when a group is firing on a range. obey his commands so that discipline is maintained to reduce the likelihood of accidents.

ALWAYS carry your rifle empty while on range until preparing to fire. keep it pointing towards the backstop when loaded to eliminate the risk of injury, death, or damage to property.

NEVER leave a loaded rifle unattended. someone, especially a child, may fire it and cause injury, death, or damage to property.

NEVER use your rifle if it fails to function properly. never force a jammed action as a cartridge may explode, causing serious injury, possible death, or severe damage to your rifle.

NEVER leave rifle cocked ready to fire as this condition is extremely dangerous, and rifle could easily be accidentally dis-charged, causing injury, death, or damage to property.

NEVER drink alcoholic beverages or take drugs before or during shooting, as your vision and judgment could be seriously impaired, making your gun handling unsafe.

ALWAYS seek a doctor's advice if you are taking medication, to be sure you are fit to shoot and handle your rifle safely

ALWAYS wear ear & eye protection when shooting. without ear protection, the noise from your rifle and other guns close to you could leave a "ringing" in your ears for some time after firing, and could lead to hearing loss.

Always make sure your rifle is not loaded before cleaning, storing, traveling, laying it down, or handing it to another person, so that it cannot be fired when it is unsafe to do so.

ALWAYS store your rifle and ammunition in separate locked receptacles out of reach and sight of children, to minimize risk of rifle and ammunition being easily available for loading and firing. Follow manufacturer's recommendation for storage of ammunition.

NEVER indulge in "horseplay" while holding your rifle as it may be accidentally discharged.

ALWAYS instruct children to respect firearms. If you teach them to shoot, teach them to use the rifle properly, and always supervise your children closely.

ALWAYS stress safety so that your children will not fire the rifle when it is unsafe to do so.

DO NOT make or attempt to make this alteration. this voids any warranty expressed or implied on your firearm

Factory Service

IMPORTANT: If you make unauthorized adjustments, or, use unauthorized replacement parts, or in any way bring this firearm Out of Proof, U.S.Fire Arms will not assume any responsibility for the correct functioning of this rifle.

Please use the address below when sending all firearms. Please do not use the word firearm in the address. Please insure your gun when shipping to:

USFA Service Department
445-453 Ledyard Street
Hartford, CT U.S.A. 06114

Before shipping your rifle, here are are some important points to remember:

I. MAKE SURE THE RIFLE IS NOT LOADED.

II. Write a letter explaining the problem and your requirements in as much detail as possible. Include the model name and serial number of your firearm together with your return address, then enclose the letter with the rifle in a well padded package.

III. Do not send presentation boxes, accessories, or explosive components. Insure the package and contents against loss or theft.

NOTE: Various Federal and State Laws and local ordinances govern the transfer and transportation of guns, so take the advice of the Dealer in your state on how to send or transport your rifle to U.S. Fire Arms.

Warranty Statement

Lifetime warranty.

What is included:

U.S.Fire Arms stands behind its products. U.S.Fire Arms products are warranted, subject to the conditions below, for as long as you, the original purchaser, own the firearm. This is a mechanical device and has a 'Life'. The life or duration depending on severity of use, climate, care, ammunition, Etc.

What is excluded from our Lifetime Warranty:

FIREARMS THAT ARE OUT OF PROOF. An Out of Proof Fire Arm is one which has been brought out of its normal operating range; caused by use of non-factory parts, use of wrong or, re-loaded ammunition, or improper ammunition, powder, neglect, corrosion, abuse, wear, alteration of mechanism, defacement of proof marks, serial numbers, or, alteration of internal or external parts, and, any other operation or alteration on the fire arm which we feel brings it Out of Proof. Be sure to retain your sales slip as proof of purchase and date when making a claim.

Special Services & Guns to Order

Historical Letter

When your Firearm was made at The Old Armory, its unique characteristics were recorded in U.S.Fire Arms - Old Armory Ledger.

It records specifics such as barrel length, caliber and style of finish and stocks. As well, it contains the unique serial number of your historic firearm. The Historic Letter depicts the Armory as it stands today.

The Historic Letter is available for your firearm. Calling or write the Secretary of the Armory at the address on the previous page for more information. The Historic Letter is included free of charge when you place your Old Armory Custom Shop order for a custom gun.

"The Finest Private Armory in the World."

The Old Armory Custom Shop

The Old Armory Custom Shop signals a New Beginning for our Old Armory. The making of a Best Quality Gun begins with the selection of fine quality Stocks & Engraving. Standard, or Special Patterns or Styles are available and you would be encouraged to consult one of our Armory Workmen. Plating of Silver, Gold, and Nickel as well as selected hardwood stocks are just some of the many personal choices one has to make.*

The Prairie Mail Box

Order your custom gun today.

United States Fire Arms Mfg. Co.

445-453 Ledyard St • Hartford, CT 06114 • USA

www.usfirearms.com

1-877-227-6901

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